

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM
TOM DAVIS, CHAIRMAN



NEWS RELEASE

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Davis Applauds House Passage of
National Drug Control Policy Office Reauthorization

WASHINGTON, D.C. – The U.S. House of Representatives today overwhelmingly approved H.R. 2829, the “Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) Reauthorization Act,” legislation introduced by Government Reform Committee Chairman Tom Davis (R-VA) and Criminal Justice Subcommittee Chairman Mark Souder (R-IN) that reauthorizes ONDCP as the lead agency in the fight against illegal drug use.

ONDCP advises the President on national and international drug control policies and strategies, certifies budget requests for federal drug control agencies, and works to ensure the effective coordination of drug programs. The legislation makes ONDCP more efficient by reducing outdated reporting and structural requirements required by current law. The bill also improves ONDCP and its programs by enhancing effectiveness and accountability in drug treatment and requiring greater diligence in addressing our nation’s methamphetamine epidemic.

The legislation reforms the National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign (which coordinates anti-drug advertising) and the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas program (which involves coordination among federal, state and local law enforcement) to make them more effective. Both programs have grown in ways that were not originally intended, and the bill reflects the desire to ensure they remain accountable and dedicated to their core purposes.

“Since its inception, ONDCP has been the cornerstone of drug policy in America, improving the lives of Americans by reducing the presence of drugs in our society. However, drug use and abuse still affects the health of many of our citizens,” said Chairman Davis. “In order to win the war on drugs, we need to address the problem of drugs in our society from every angle. This legislation gives ONDCP the appropriate resources to stop drug use before it starts, heal drug users, and disrupt drug markets.

“I have been to Colombia and it is apparent ONDCP is making every effort to attack the economic basis of the drug trade by disrupting the markets at home and abroad. We need to continue to wage war on the supply side of the drug equation while reaffirming our commitment

to addressing the demand side as well,” Davis added. “We all know that drugs affect people from all walks of life. Addiction does not discriminate. A strong national drug policy is in the interest of every American.”

The ONDCP reauthorization was unanimously approved by the Government Reform Committee last June and had to go through several other committees before reaching the House floor. Last Congress, the House passed legislation to reauthorize ONDCP and its programs (H.R. 2086, passed on September 30, 2003), but the Senate did not act.

“I would like to thank Chairman Souder, Subcommittee Ranking Member Elijah Cummings, and my Ranking Member Henry Waxman for their leadership, dedication, and hard work on this legislation. I am happy we could reach bipartisan agreement on this bill, since there is no place for partisanship in protecting our children against drugs,” Davis stated.

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